

Fear at the Top

For the U.S., it may well have been the greatest intelligence bonanza since World War II, for the Soviet Union, the greatest security leak since the Bolshevik revolution.

"Penkovsky is dead. He met his death like a despicable coward," said Izvestia. This was the announcement that Col. Oleg V. Penkovsky, the first Soviet citizen since World War II to be publicly tried and convicted as a spy for the West, had been executed by a firing squad. But Penkovsky's ghost still haunted Moscow last week. Penkovsky, it seems, had personal connections in



Varentzov: Busted

the highest reaches of the Soviet military and political establishment.

►"Demoted" because of his friendship with Penkovsky was Marshal Sergei S. Varentzov, chief of Soviet artillery, and three other top officers. Varentzov knew the complete details of the Soviet space and missile programs.

►Under arrest, according to Western intelligence, was Gen. Ivan A. Serov, one of the Soviet's top intelligence officers and Penkovsky's superior in Soviet intelligence. Serov's commanding officer, Marshal Matvei V. Zakharov, chief of the general staff, was fired in March. ►Recalled from his post with the Soviet airline Aerflot in Helsinki, Finland, was Serov's son Vladimir.

►Soviet military attachés and agents were on their way home to Moscow for "consultation" from widely scattered parts of the globe.

In the Soviet capital, Lt. Gen. Artem G. Gorny, the chief prosecutor at the Penkovsky trial, assured the Soviet people that the spy had given away nothing more than "fragmentary information about old rocket models." But there was little doubt in Western capitals that Penkovsky had turned over to the U.S. and Britain the whole astounding story of Soviet missile, space, and nuclear weapons development. The gist: the Soviets are far behind the U.S. in the effort to land a man on the moon. It was also Penkovsky's information that helped the Kennedy Administration reach the conclusion that there was no such thing as a "missile gap."

For both K's, the Penkovsky aftermath could be embarrassing. Last week, Nikita Khrushchev warned Soviet officials against too much diplomatic partying at Western embassies. And President Kennedy may have to explain once again why the U.S. is spending \$20 billion to reach the moon before the Russians land there.